

the PCI for the trunking basket, measured from the levels in effect on the last day of the tariff year preceding the tariff year in which the later date occurs.

(iii) On the first day of the second tariff year following the tariff year during which the later date occurs, the local exchange carriers to which this paragraph applies shall establish the separate subindexes provided in § 61.47(h)(1), and shall set the initial SBIs for those density pricing zone categories that are combined (specified in paragraphs (i)(4)(i)(A) and (i)(4)(i)(C), (i)(4)(i)(B) and (i)(4)(i)(D), and (i)(4)(i)(E) and (i)(4)(i)(G) of this section) by computing the weighted averages of the SBIs that applied to the formerly separate zone categories, weighted by the revenue weights of the respective services included in the zone categories.

(j) *Video Dialtone Services.* For local exchange carriers subject to price cap regulation, the video dialtone services basket, as designated in § 61.42(d)(5), shall be established with an initial PCI and API level of 100 in the first annual price cap tariff filing following competition of the base period in which the initial video dialtone service was introduced. The initial value of 100 for the PCI and API for video dialtone service prior to adjustment of inflation and productivity shall correspond to the rates in effect just prior to the effective date of the annual filing in which rates for video dialtone service are initially included in the video dialtone basket.

(k) *Marketing expenses.* In the January 1, 1998 price cap tariff filing, local exchange carriers shall establish the marketing expense basket designated in § 61.42(d)(6) with an initial PCI and API level of 100. The initial value of 100 for the PCI and API for marketing expenses shall correspond to the marketing expenses described in § 69.156(a) of this chapter.

[54 FR 19843, May 8, 1989, as amended at 55 FR 42384, Oct. 19, 1990; 56 FR 21617, May 10, 1991; 56 FR 55239, Oct. 25, 1991; 59 FR 10302, Mar. 4, 1994; 60 FR 19528, Apr. 19, 1995; 60 FR 52346, Oct. 6, 1995; 62 FR 31932, June 11, 1997]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 62 FR 31932, June 11, 1997, § 61.48 was amended by adding paragraph (k), effective Jan. 1, 1998.

§ 61.49 Supporting information to be submitted with letters of transmittal for tariffs of carriers subject to price cap regulation.

(a) Each price cap tariff filing must be accompanied by supporting materials sufficient to calculate required adjustments to each PCI, API, and SBI pursuant to the methodologies provided in §§ 61.44, 61.45, 61.46, and 61.47, as applicable.

(b) Each price cap tariff filing that proposes rates that are within applicable bands established pursuant to § 61.47, and that results in an API value that is equal to or less than the applicable PCI value, must be accompanied by supporting materials sufficient to establish compliance with the applicable bands, and to calculate the necessary adjustment to the affected APIs and SBIs pursuant to §§ 61.46 and 61.47, respectively.

(c) Each price cap tariff filing that proposes rates above the applicable band limits established in § 61.47 (e), (f)(1), (g), and (h) or above the limit on composite average residential rates established in § 61.47(f)(2), must be accompanied by supporting materials establishing substantial cause for the proposed rates.

(d) Each price cap tariff filing that proposes rates that will result in an API value that exceeds the applicable PCI value must be accompanied by:

(1) An explanation of the manner in which all costs have been allocated among baskets; and

(2) Within the affected basket, a cost assignment slowing down to the lowest possible level of disaggregation, including a detailed explanation of the reasons for the prices of all rate elements to which costs are not assigned.

(e) Each price cap tariff filing that proposes restructuring of existing rates must be accompanied by supporting materials sufficient to make the adjustments to each affected API and SBI required by §§ 61.46(c) and 61.47(d), respectively.

(f)(1) Each tariff filing by a dominant interexchange carrier, as specified by Commission order, that introduces a new service that will later be included in a basket must be accompanied by cost data sufficient to establish that the new service, and each unbundled

element thereof, will generate a net revenue increase—measured against revenues generated from all services subject to price cap regulation, and calculated based upon present value—within the lesser of a 24-month period after an annual price cap tariff including the new service takes effect, or 36 months from the date the new service becomes effective. Each carrier making such a tariff filing must, at the time the new service is incorporated into the price cap index, submit data sufficient to make the API and PCI calculations required by §§ 61.46(b) and 61.44(c) of this part, and, as necessary, to make the SBI calculations provided in § 61.47(b) or (c) of this part.

(2) Each tariff filing submitted by a local exchange carrier specified in § 61.41(a) (2) or (3) of this part that introduces a new service or a restructured unbundled basic service element (BSE) (as BSE is defined in § 69.2 (mm)) that is or will later be included in a basket must be accompanied by cost data sufficient to establish that the new service or unbundled BSE will not recover more than a reasonable portion of the carrier's overhead costs.

(g) Each tariff filing by a local exchange carrier subject to price cap regulation that introduces a new service or a restructured unbundled basis service element (BSE), as defined in § 69.2(mm) of this chapter, that is or will later be included in a basket, or that introduces or changes the rates for connection charge subelements for expanded interconnection, as defined in § 69.121 of this chapter, must also be accompanied by:

(1) The following, including complete explanations of the bases for the estimates.

(i) A study containing a projection of costs for a representative 12 month period; and

(ii) Estimates of the effect of the new tariff on the traffic and revenues from the service to which the new tariff applies, the carrier's other service classifications, and the carrier's overall traffic and revenues. These estimates must include the projected effects on the traffic and revenues for the same representative 12 month period used in paragraph (h)(1)(i) of this section.

(2) *Working papers and statistical data.*

(i) Concurrently with the filing of any tariff change or tariff filing for a service not previously offered, the Chief, Tariff Review Branch must be provided two sets of working papers containing the information underlying the data supplied in response to paragraph (h)(1) of this section, and a clear explanation of how the working papers relate to that information.

(ii) All statistical studies must be submitted and supported in the form prescribed in § 1.363 of the Commission's rules.

(h) Each tariff filing submitted by a local exchange carrier subject to price cap regulation that introduces or changes the rates for connection charge subelements for expanded interconnection, as defined in § 69.121 of this chapter, must be accompanied by cost data sufficient to establish that such charges will not recover more than a just and reasonable portion of the carrier's overhead costs.

(i) For a tariff filing that introduces or changes a contribution charge for special access and expanded interconnection, as defined in § 69.122 of this chapter, the carrier must submit information sufficient to establish that the charge has been calculated in a manner that complies with the Commission order authorizing the contribution charge.

(j) For a tariff that introduces a system of density pricing zones, as described in § 69.123 of this chapter, the carrier must, before filing its tariff, submit a density pricing zone plan including, *inter alia*, documentation sufficient to establish that the system of zones reasonably reflects cost-related characteristics, such as the density of total interstate traffic in central offices located in the respective zones, and receive approval of its proposed plan.

(k) In accordance with §§ 61.41 through 61.49, local exchange carriers subject to price cap regulation that elect to file their annual access tariff pursuant to section 204(a)(3) of the Communications Act shall submit supporting material for their interstate

annual access tariffs, absent rate information, 90 days prior to July 1 of each year.

[54 FR 19843, May 8, 1989, as amended at 55 FR 42384, Oct. 19, 1990; 56 FR 5956, Feb. 14, 1991; 56 FR 21617, May 10, 1991; 56 FR 33880, July 24, 1991; 57 FR 37730, Aug. 20, 1992; 57 FR 54331, Nov. 18, 1992; 58 FR 17167, Apr. 1, 1993; 58 FR 38536, July 19, 1993; 58 FR 48762, Sept. 17, 1993; 59 FR 10304, Mar. 4, 1994; 62 FR 4659, Jan. 31, 1997; 62 FR 5778, Feb. 7, 1997; 62 FR 42218, Aug. 6, 1997]

§ 61.50 Scope: Optional incentive regulation for rate of return local exchange carriers.

(a) This section shall apply on an elective basis, to local exchange carriers for either traffic sensitive rates only or for both traffic sensitive and common line rates. Carriers electing the plan for traffic sensitive rates only must participate in the Association common line pool. Affiliation with average schedule companies shall not bar a carrier from electing optional incentive regulation provided the carrier is otherwise eligible.

(b) If a telephone company, or any one of a group of affiliated telephone companies, files an optional incentive regulation tariff in one study area, that telephone company and its affiliates, except its average schedule affiliates, must file incentive plan tariffs in all their study areas.

(c) The following rules apply to telephone companies subject to this section, that become involved in mergers, acquisitions, or similar transactions, except that mergers with, acquisitions by, or other similar transactions with companies subject to price cap regulation, as that term is defined in § 61.3(w), shall be governed by § 61.41(c).

(1) Any telephone company subject to this section that is a party to a merger, acquisition, or similar transaction, shall continue to be subject to incentive regulation notwithstanding such transaction.

(2) Where a telephone company subject to this section acquires, is acquired by, merged with, or otherwise becomes affiliated with a telephone company that is not subject to this section, the latter telephone company shall become subject to optional incentive plan regulation no later than one year following the effective date of

such merger, acquisition, or similar transaction and shall accordingly file optional incentive plan tariffs to be effective no later than that date in accordance with the applicable provisions of this part 61.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (c)(2) of this section, when a telephone company subject to optional incentive plan regulation acquires, is acquired by, mergers with, or otherwise becomes affiliated with a telephone company that qualifies as an "average schedule" company, the latter company may retain its "average schedule" status or become subject to optional incentive plan regulations in accordance with § 69.3(i)(3) of this chapter and the requirements referenced in that section.

(d) Local exchange carriers that are subject to this section shall not withdraw from optional incentive regulation until the end of two, two-year tariff periods. If a local exchange carrier withdraws from optional incentive plan regulation, it must file company-specific tariffs under the provisions of § 61.38 for four years before it may again elect to enter incentive plan regulation; such carrier may not participate in the applicable Association tariff during that four years. After the four year period, the carrier may either return to the incentive plan, or remain under § 61.38.

(e) Each local exchange carrier subject to this section shall establish the baskets of services, including service categories, as identified in § 61.42 (d) and (e).

(f) Each local exchange carrier subject to optional incentive regulation shall exclude from its baskets such services or portions of such services as the Commission has designated or may hereafter designate by order.

(g) New services, other than those within the scope of paragraph (f) of this section, must be included in the affected basket at the first two-year tariff filing following completion of the two-year tariff period in which they are introduced. To the extent that such new services are permitted or required to be included in new or existing service categories within the assigned basket, they shall be so included at the first two-year tariff filing following